

In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the method comprising the step of:

topically applying an antimicrobial composition to the teats of the animal, the composition comprising (1) ~~[[from]]~~ at least about 60% ~~to about 95%~~ of a lipophilic polar solvent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, glycerol, and isopropanol, ~~and sorbitol~~, by weight of the composition, (2) at least two C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acids in a total amount of from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the composition; and (3) devoid of sufficient fatty acid ester to substantially improve the antimicrobial activity of the composition.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the lipophilic polar solvent is propylene glycol.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the lipophilic polar solvent is present in an amount from about 60% to about 75% by weight of the composition.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the method comprising the step of:

topically applying an antimicrobial composition to the teats or udder of the animal, the composition comprising:

~~[[from]]~~ at least about 50% ~~to about 99%~~ of a lipophilic polar solvent selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, glycerol, and isopropanol, ~~and sorbitol~~, by weight of composition;

at least two C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acids in the total amount from about 0.5% to 5% by weight of the composition; and

devoid of sufficient fatty acid ester to substantially improve the antimicrobial activity of the composition.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the composition ~~further~~ comprises a ~~second~~ C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acid.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is propylene glycol.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is present in the amount from about 50% to about 75% by weight of composition.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is present in the amount ~~from~~ of at least about 60% ~~to about 99%~~ by weight of composition.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the fatty acid is caprylic acid.

10. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the fatty acid is capric acid.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the method comprising the step of:

topically applying an antimicrobial composition to the teats of the animal, the composition comprising; ~~[[from]]~~ at least about 50% ~~to 99%~~ by weight of the composition a lipophilic polar solvent having a dielectric constant greater than 25, ~~[[a]]~~ at least two C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acids in the total amount of from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the composition, and devoid of sufficient fatty acid ester to substantially improve the antimicrobial activity of the composition.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is selected from a group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, glycerol, and isopropanol, ~~and sorbitol~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the antimicrobial composition ~~further~~ comprises a ~~second~~ C₈ to C₁₄ fatty acid.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the antimicrobial composition has a pH below about 4.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of the fatty acids in the antimicrobial composition ~~further comprises~~ is a ~~second~~ C₁₂ or C₁₄ fatty acid.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of the fatty acids in the antimicrobial composition ~~further comprises~~ is a C₇ fatty acid.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the method comprising the step of:

topically applying an antimicrobial composition to the teats or udder of the animal,

the composition comprising:

~~[[from]]~~ at least about 50% ~~to about 99%~~ of a lipophilic polar solvent having a dielectric

constant greater than 25 by weight of composition;

at least two C₇ to C₁₄ fatty acids in ~~[[the]]~~ a total amount from about 0.5% to 5% by

weight of the composition; and

devoid of sufficient fatty acid ester to substantially improve the antimicrobial activity of the composition.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, glycerol, and isopropanol, ~~and sorbitol~~.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is present in the amount from about 50% to about 75% by weight of composition.

21. (Currently) The method of claim 17 wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is present in the amount ~~[[from]]~~ of at least about 60% ~~to about 99%~~ by weight of composition.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the fatty acid is caprylic acid.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the fatty acid is capric acid.

24. (Currently Amended) An antimicrobial composition for reducing the incidence of mastitis in a dairy animal, the composition comprising:

[[~~from~~]] at least about 50% ~~to about 99%~~ of a lipophilic polar solvent having a dielectric constant greater than 25, by weight of the composition;
at least two C₇ to C₁₄ fatty acids in the total amount of from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the composition; and
devoid of sufficient fatty acid ester to substantially improve the antimicrobial activity of the composition.

25. (Currently Amended) The antimicrobial composition of claim 24, wherein the lipophilic polar solvent is selected from a group consisting of: propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, glycerol, and isopropanol, ~~and sorbitol~~.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) The antimicrobial composition of claim 24, wherein the antimicrobial composition has a pH below about 4.

28. (Currently Amended) The antimicrobial composition of claim 24, wherein the fatty acids [[~~is~~]] are selected from the group consisting essentially of C₇, C₈, C₉, C₁₀, C₁₂ and C₁₄ fatty acids.